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TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: OY, OPEP
SUBJECT: N.Y. TIMES ARTICLE - INTERVIEW OF JACQUELINE SPIER

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWER: _____ DATE _____
DENIAL AUTHORITY: DATE _____
REASON(S) _____
ENCLOSE CLASSIFYING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
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1. THE NEW YORK TIMES TODAY CARRIED FOLLOWING STORY BASED ON TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH JACQUELINE SPIER ALLEGING THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY WERE NEGLIGENT IN THEIR BRIEFINGS OF CONGRESSMAN RYAN AND IN MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR THEIR VISIT TO JONESTOWN. EMBASSY COMMENTS REQUESTED BY IMMEDIATE CABLE. WE ALSO NEED DWYER'S REPORT OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE VISIT AND THEIR BRIEFINGS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR JONESTOWN, AND THE REPORT OF ELLIZ'S NOVEMBER 7 TRIP TO JONESTOWN.
2. BEGIN TEXT.
QUOTE: WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 3. REPRESENTATIVE LEO J. RYAN'S LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL, WHO WAS CRITICALLY WOUNDED IN THE GUYANA SHOOTING THAT COST THE CONGRESSMAN HIS

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LIFE, SAID TODAY THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD NEVER WARNED THE RYAN PARTY OF ANY DANGER OF VIOLENCE IN ITS MISSION TO GUYANA.
JACQUELINE SPEIER, A 28-YEAR-OLD LAWYER AND AN AIDE TO THE DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMAN FROM CALIFORNIA FOR NINE YEARS, SPOKE BY TELEPHONE FROM HER BED IN A WASHINGTON AREA HOSPITAL, WHERE SHE IS RECOVERING FROM WOUNDS INFLICTED BY THE PEOPLES TEMPLE GUNMEN WHO ALLEGEDLY KILLED MR. RYAN AND FOUR OTHERS IN GUYANA ON NOVEMEBER 18. MISS SPEIER ACCUSED THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN GEORGETOWN OF INDIFFERENCE AND HOSTILITY TOWARD MR. RYAN'S ILL-FATED TRIP TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS BY SAN FRNACISCO CONSTITUENTS THAT THEIR RELATIVES WERE BEING ABUSED AND FORCIBLY DETAINED IN THE PEOPLES TEMPLE SETTLEMENT OF JONESTOWN.
A LOT OF INACCURACIES
SHE SAID SHE HAD DECIDED TO SPEAK TO A REPORTER BECAUSE SHE HAD BECOME AWARE DURING HER HOSPITALIZATION OF A LOT OF INACCURACIES IN SOME PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE RYAN MISSION AND THE ROLE OF THE STATE DEPART-

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MENT AND THE EMBASSY IN THE MASS DEATHS IN GUYANA.
THE STATE DEPARTMENT AT NO TIME MADE IT EVEN REMOTELY
CLEAR TO THE CONGRESSMAN OR TO MYSELF THAT THERE
WOULD BE DANGER ENCOUNTERED OF THE NATURE THAT WE
FOUND, MISS SPEIER SAID.
THERE WAS RELUCTANCE BY STATE TO HAVE THE TRIP COME OFF
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FOR A LOT OF REASONS, SHE SAID, ADDING THAT IN HER
OPINON, ONE OF THE REASONS WAS THAT THEY JUST HADN'T
DONE ENOUGH INVESTIGATING INTO THE PEOPLES TEMPLE
COMMUNITY.
SHE ALSO BELIEVED, SHE SAID THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT
AND THE EMBASSY WERE AFRAID MR. RYAN'S INVESTIGATION
AND HIS DETERMINATION TO BRING OUT PEOPLE TMEPLE MEMBERS
WHO WISHED TO LEAVE WOULD DAMAGE UNITED STATES RELATIONS
WITH GUYANA.
WHEN THE CONGRESSMAN AND HIS PARTY ARRIVED IN GUYANA ON
NOV. 14, THEY ENCOUNTERED A BLASE ATTITUDE AND DEEP
RESENTMENT AMONG SOME EMBASSY OFFICERS ABOUT THE RYAN
MISSION, SHE SAID.
MISS SPEIER RECALLED THAT SHE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF
THE PARTY HAD HARDLY SEATED THEMSELVES IN AN AUTO FOR
THE RIDE FROM THE AIRPORT INTO GEORGETOWN WHEN RICHARD
DWYER, THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE EMBASSY, STARTED READING
US THE RIOT ACT.
HE SAID WE HADN'T DONE HALF ENOUGH STAFF WORK FOR THIS
CODEL, SAID MISS SPEIER, USING THE ACRONYM FOR A
CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION CARRYING OUT AN INVESTIGATION
ABROAD.
HE WAS ALSO VERY UPSET THAT THE PRESS HAD COME DOWN WITH
US, SHE SAID, ALTHOUGH THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS WELL
AWARE THAT WE WOULD HAVE PRESS REPRESENTATIVES ALONG.
ATTITUDE PARTY HAD ENCOUNTERED
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MISS SPEIER SAID SHE WAS RELUCTANT TO SPEAK OF MR. DWYER'S
EVIDENT RESENTMENT OF THE RYAN MISSION BECAUSE HE
HAD LATER PLAYED A COMMENDABLE ROLE - THOUGH SLIGHTLY
WOUNDED HIMSELF - IN CARING FOR THE WOUNDED AND IN
GETTING THEM EVACUATED FROM THE AIRSTRIP NEAR JONESTOWN.
SHE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT MR. DWYER'S REMARKS IN THE
AUTOMOBILE SYMBOLIZED AN ATTITUDE THAT MR. RYAN'S PARTY
HAD ENCOUNTERED AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT.
SHE MADE IT CLEAR THAT SHE RESENTED MR. DWYER'S
ALLEGATION THAT THE RYAN MISSION WAS ILL PREPARED. SHE
SAIDSHE AND MR. RYAN HAD HAD EXTENSIVE CONVERSATIONS
WITH MANY PEOPLE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WHEN THE TRIP
WAS BEING PLANNED.
MISS SPEIER SAID AMBASSADOR JOHN BURKE CHANGED HIS

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ATTITUDE TOWARD THE RYAN MISSION AND THE PEOPLES TEMPLE AFTER HE MET ON NOV. 16 WITH THE CONGRESSMAN'S PARTY, INCLUDING ABOUT 14 REALTIVES OF JONESTOWN RESIDENTS.
HAD A BLASE ATTITUDE
I THANK THAT UNTIL HE MET WITH US, THE AMBASSADOR ALSO HAD A BLASE ATTITUDE TOWARD JONESTOWN, SHE SAID. BUT AT THE MEETING, SHE SAID MR. BURKE SAID HE HAD NO RECOLLECTION OF HAVING SEEN AFFIDAVITS SENT TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR TO THE EMBASSY BY SOME OF THOSE PRESENT, INCLUDING PEOPLES TEMPLE DEFECTORS.
ONE OF THOSE AFFIDAVITS, MISS SPEIER RECALLED, CARRIED THE WARNING THAT THE REV. JIM JONES HAD NOT ONLY
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PLANNED BUT HAD HELD REHEARSALS FOR A MASS SUICIDE BY MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE.
IN ANOTHER CASE THAT CAME UP AT THE MEETING, MISS SPEIER SAID, THE AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN SENT A NOTARIZED AFFIDAVIT FROM SAN FRANCISCO ASKING THAT HE INQUIRE INTO SOME ALLEGATIONS ABOUT ABUSES IN JONESTOWN.
THE AMBASSADOR'S REPLY WAS THAT HE HAD NEVER SEEN IT, MISS SPEIER SAID, AND NO ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE DOCUMENT HAD EVER BEEN RECEIVED BY THE SENDER. EMPHASIZING THAT SHE SPOKE AS A LAWYER, MISS SPEIER SAID: ON THE FACE OF IT, THAT IS A VIOLATION OF THE TREATY THE UNITED STATES HAS WITH GUYANA CONCERNING CONSULAR SERVICES. ON THE BASIS OF THAT TREATY ALONE, IT WAS INCUMBENT ON THE AMBASSADOR TO INVESTIGATE.
BRUSHOFF AT GEORGETOWN OFFICE
SHE SAID ONE FACTOR IN CHANGING THE AMBASSADOR'S ATTITUDE TO ONE OF CONCERN WAS THE REPORT FURNISHED BY SOME OF THE RELATIVES AT THE MEETING. IN THE REPORT, SHE SAID, THEY CITED THE BRUSHOFF THEY HAD RECEIVED AT THE GEORGETOWN OFFICE OF THE PEOPLES COMMUNITY, WHERE THEY HAD GONE TO INQUIRE ABOUT SOME CHILDREN.
THE RELATIVES HAD BEEN TOLD ONLY TO GO TO THE U.S. EMBASSY, MISS SPEIER SAID.WHEN HE HEARD THAT, I BELIEVE THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME THE AMBASSADOR REALIZED THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION AND, TO HIS CREDIT, HE GOT ON THE PHONE TO THE PEOPLES TEMPLE OFFICE AND BEGAN TO DEMAND ANSWERS TO SOME OF OUR QUESTIONS.
BUT ALL THAT CAME HOURS, DAYS,MONTHS TOO LATE, MISS SPEIER SAID.
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MISS SPEIER CALLED INADEQUATE THE PERIODIC VISITS TO JONESTOWN BY CONSULAR OFFICERS FROM THE EMBASSY IN GEORGETOWN IN PART TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS OF RELATIVES THAT MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE WERE BEING HELD AGAINST THEIR WILL.

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IT WAS SHOW TIME
WHENEVER THE U.S. CONSULAR OFFICER WENT TO JONESTOWN, IT WAS SHOW TIME SHE SAID. SHE NOTED THAT THE JONESTOWN COMMUNITY WAS ALWAYS NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF A CONSULAR OFFICER'S VISIT AND WAS GIVEN AT LEAST A PARTIAL LIST OF PEOPLE WHOM HE WISHED TO INTERVIEW.
THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS SAID THAT NAMES OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE TO BE INTERVIEWED WERE ALWAYS LEFT OFF THE LIST SENT TO JONESTOWN AND THAT CONSULAR OFFICERS OFTEN CONDUCTED THEIR CONVERSATIONS WITH INDIVIDUALS IN AN OPEN FIELD, FAR FROM OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS.
MISS SPEIER SAID SHE HAD BEEN TOLD, HOWEVER, THAT THE CONSULAR OFFICER USUALLY CONDUCTED HIS INTERVIEWS IN THE JONESTOWN RADIO ROOM THAT COULD BE BUGGED AND PROBABLY WAS BUGGED.
SHE WAS ESPECIALLY BITTER ABOUT WHAT SHE REGARDED AS THE FAILURE OF THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES TO INVESTIGATE ADEQUATELY THE ALLEGATIONS BY PEOPLES TEMPLE DEFECTORS THAT GUNS AND AMMUNITION WERE SHIPPED IN FALSELY MARKED CRATES FROM THE UNITED STATES TO GUYANA.
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MISS SPEIER HAS BEEN WARNED BY FEDERAL SECURITY OFFICERS NOT TO DISCLOSE THE HOSPITAL IN WHICH SHE IS A PATIENT FOR FEAR OF REPRISALS BY SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE IN THIS COUNTRY.
THE TWO LONG TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH MISS SPEIER WERE ARRANGED BY A CLOSE FRIEND OF MISS SPEIER, WHO TRANSMITTED THE REPORTER'S REQUEST THAT MISS SPEIER TELEPHONE HIM.
MISS SPEIER SAID SHE HAD A FOREBODING ABOUT THE TRIP TO GUYANA AND HAD MADE OUT HER WILL HOURS BEFORE SHE LEFT. AND FILED IT IN HER OFFICE ALONG WITH THE WILL THAT REPRESENTATIVE RYAN HAD DRAWN TWO YEARS AGO.
END OF TEXT. UNQUOTE. VANCE
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